

# PSYCHOLOGY 101 – Section 008

## Introduction to Biological and Cognitive Psychology (3 credits)

### University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Winter 2015  
MWF 12:00 - 1:00pm  
CIRS 1250

### Instructor

Dr. Luke Clark is an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department, and the Director of the Centre for Gambling Research at UBC. His research looks at the cognitive and neural basis of decision-making, using a range of methods including neuroimaging, neuropsychology and psychopharmacology. His office is in the CIRS building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, room 4243B. Email [luke.clark@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:luke.clark@psych.ubc.ca).

### Teaching Assistants

Meagan Auger ([Meagan.auger@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:Meagan.auger@psych.ubc.ca)) is a graduate student in Behavioural Neuroscience in the Department of Psychology. Office hours: Tuesdays 14:00 – 15:00 in Kenny 3512.

Courtney Bryce ([cab523@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:cab523@psych.ubc.ca)) is a graduate student in Behavioural Neuroscience in the Department of Psychology. Office hours: Tuesdays 15:00 – 16:00 in Kenny 3506.

Stefan Bourrier ([scbourrier@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:scbourrier@psych.ubc.ca)) is a graduate student in Cognitive Psychology in the UBC Vision Lab. Office hours: Mondays 10:30 - 11:30 in Kenny 3508.

### Course description and goals

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. This course will serve as an introduction to the *cognitive* and *biological* aspects of psychology. To this end, we will cover a number of topics, including history, research methods, neuroscience, sensation and perception, learning and memory, language, consciousness and thinking. We will consider human psychology as well as the insights that can be gained from research in non-human species. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply scientific methods to the investigation of human nature, behaviour, and mental processes. This will include research design, the major techniques and measures that are used in psychology, and interpretation of psychological data and graphs.
- Display knowledge about the organisation of the nervous system at multiple levels, from single neurons to brain networks. In particular, students will understand how different neural structures are linked to different psychological processes.
- Apply psychological research to everyday life and real-world behaviour, as well as brain disorders both neurological and psychiatric.

### Course webpage

<http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/> (location for important announcements, lecture slides and grades)

### Required textbook

Schacter DL, Gilbert DT, Wegner DM, Nock MK & Johnsrude I (2014) *Psychology* (Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> edition + Launchpad). New York: Worth.

The textbook is paired with an online platform called Launchpad, which we will be using on a weekly basis throughout the course. You can obtain the textbook and Launchpad access in two ways:

1) As well as the full price hardcover copy of the textbook, the bookstore is stocking a discounted looseleaf copy (ISBN: 978-1-319-02336-2) at \$69 that includes access to Launchpad as well as online access to the full book.

2) You can purchase Launchpad with *online-only access* to the book through the Launchpad website: <http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/schacter3ecanadian/1215153>  
Previous and Non-Canadian editions of the textbook cannot be verified as appropriate for the course, and will not include Launchpad access.

### Launchpad

As well as including a full online copy of your textbook, Launchpad provides a number of useful interactive tools including videos, quizzes, and revision aids. Each week, you will be assigned a number of short 'Learning Curve' exercises to quiz you on the relevant chapter in the textbook. These exercises will comprise 5% of your final grade, and Launchpad access is therefore mandatory for this course. The Launchpad tools are an excellent way to augment your weekly study time, and prepare for the exams, and I strongly encourage you to use the online resources regularly.

Your textbook (either the hardback or looseleaf edition) will come with a code that will give you access to Launchpad, and you will then need to register by providing your email, 8-digit UBC student number, and the code. Please note that this link is course-unique, to register you for my PSYC 101 class (<http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/schacter3ecanadian/1215153>).

There is a 21 day trial period to Launchpad available through the website. *If you have any issues with Launchpad access, please contact Launchpad technical support!*

### Office Hours

Meagan, Courtney and Stefan will each hold weekly office hours (see page 1). Questions about course content should be directed to the TAs. Questions about exams, grading and students welfare should be directed to me. I will be available for a few minutes before and after each class, and I will invite questions about the previous lecture at the start of each class.

I encourage you to use email to ask questions where possible, as this is a very large class. By formulating your question in writing, this can often help clarify the issue in your own mind. Please be judicious in your use email: if you have more than 2 questions, your best option is to visit in office hours. The email subject line should include the course name (PSYC 101). We will strive to reply to e-mails within 48 hours of receipt (not including weekends).

### Course requirements

*Midterm Examinations I & II (30% for MT1 and 30% for MT2 = 60% of the course grade)*

Each midterm will consist of multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blanks questions. The two midterms are non-cumulative. Questions will test your understanding of the textbook material, as well as topics that were covered in the lectures that are not covered in the textbook. Therefore, to perform well, you must have a clear understanding of both lecture and textbook content.

*Final Examination (33% of course grade)*

The Final will be structurally similar to the midterms but it will be cumulative, testing textbook material from post-MT2, as well as lecture material from the entire course.

*Please note: the date of the final is not announced by the University until after the start of term. You should NOT make travel plans until you learn the date of your final exams. You CANNOT take the final at a different date/time unless you have a verifiable medical reason.*

*LearningCurve (5% of course grade)*

The LearningCurve exercises on Launchpad are online tests that reward you for doing your readings. They emphasize which sections you need to review and which sections you know. They will be *due before each Friday's class and become unavailable after that time*. You need to complete 25 of the 30 exercises for full grade.

*Research Experience Component (REC) (2% of course grade)*

Psychology is an active and exciting scientific discipline. Many of the studies that you will learn about in this course were carried out at universities just like ours! As part of this course, you will be asked to complete a research experience component (REC) as way of introducing you, in a more hands on and interactive way, to cutting edge research in psychology. This REC will be worth 2% of your grade in the class and you are free to choose one of two options:

*Participate in the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool:* Most students will choose to earn their research experience component by participating in psychology studies through the Department of Psychology's Human Subject Pool (HSP) system. Experiments are usually done in either 30 or 60 minute slots, to give you 0.5 or 1 credit. You will always be fully told about the nature of the experiment and each experiment will only proceed with your explicit consent. You can create an account and sign up for studies by going to <https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. *Please register in the system by the end of the first month of classes to have the opportunity to earn your first ½ hour credit with a brief online survey that will increase your eligibility for more studies.*

Once registered in the system, you will be able to browse through and select which studies you wish to participate in, sign up for an available timeslot, and view your accumulated credits. The subject pool closes on the last day of class (10th April). At that point, you will no longer be able to receive credits. As there is often an end of term rush for HSP participation, I strongly urge you to complete your REC requirements earlier in the term.

*Alternative assignment - The Library Option:* As an alternative to participating in the Human Subjects Pool, you can instead choose to complete library writing projects (worth 1% point each). For this assignment, you will read and summarize research articles. You must select a research article (not a letter to the editor, commentary, or review paper) published between 2000-present in the journal *Psychological Science* – one of the disciplines' leading journals. Each summary should be about 500 words and should describe the purpose, method and results of the study in your own words. If you choose the library option, you must, a) submit your summaries and a copy of the articles by the last day of classes (10th April 2015), and b) submit each summary to turnitin.com (class ID 9183443, entitled "Psychology HSP (Winter 2015)", password "research"). If you don't have a Turnitin account already (from a previous course), you will need to create a user account in Turnitin.

There is a more extensive guide to the HSP system and Library Assignment on the Psychology department website <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy> and uploaded to Connect.

Research participation (optional extra credit opportunity)

You have the opportunity to earn and add up to three (3) *extra* percentage points to your course grade by participating in further research studies coordinated through the Human Subject Pool (HSP). As an alternative to participating in studies, you may choose to complete library writing assignments. For more details about how to pursue either of these options, please refer to the “Research Experience Component” above. Any credits you earn will first be applied to the course requirement of 2%. Any additional credits will be applied to extra credit. For extra credit, one percentage point is assigned to your final grade for each hour of participation, and partial credits will be rounded down (i.e., 1.5 hours extra credit hours = 1% extra credit). Credits can be recorded and tracked via the HSP website. Extra credit is added to your grade at the end of the course.

#### Course grading

Your final grade consists of the items described above: the performance for each of the items will be put into a calculator that outputs your final course percentage. Any extra credit earned will be added to this final score.

*Grade Distribution:* A 80-100%, B 68-79%, C 55-67%, D 50-54%, F <50%

*Scaling Policy:* The Department of Psychology reserves the right to scale grades in order to maintain fairness across different sections or with school norms. The anticipated distribution of grades is an average of 65-67 % with a standard deviation of 14. Scaling may be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student’s academic record.

#### Course Policies

This is a very large class, and as a courtesy to your fellow students and the Instructor, I expect you to mute your cell phones and avoid conversing with other students during class. Laptops are permitted in class, but use of social media etc during class is obviously discouraged.

#### *Missed Exams*

The midterms cannot be taken at another time. If you miss a midterm you will simply lose the number of points associated with it, i.e. your grade will be computed as if the missed test scored zero. The only exceptions to this are validated medical excuses. If you are a student from the Faculty of Arts, you must meet *with an Arts Advisor* within 48 hours of missing the exam (unless it is medically impossible). If you are from a different faculty, you should provide Dr. Clark with a written note from your doctor attesting to the fact that *on the day of the exam you were too ill to be expected to function reasonably*. Please note, that although the Student Health Service will provide such validations for Final exams, they will not provide these for midterms. Personal or family circumstances that require you to miss a midterm must be verified by a written letter of explanation from your psychiatrist, psychologist, or student counselor. If you are experiencing personal difficulties, I will be more supportive if you contact me ahead of the exam (at least 24 hours).

Where a valid excuse exists, your mark from the missing Midterm will be calculated from the average of the other Midterm and the Final exam. If you miss the final examination, you must connect with Arts to address the issue. Make-ups for the Final may differ from the version used for the rest of the class.

#### *Turning up late for exams*

A student will not be allowed to write a midterm or the Final if (1) s/he is 30 minutes late, or (2) a student has already finished and submitted their exam, whichever occurs first. Students in this situation will not be allowed to write the exam and will receive a zero. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

There will be no “in and out” privileges once you’ve started an exam (e.g., bathroom break) unless you have a documented medical reason for doing so. Medical documentation must be disclosed to Dr. Clark at least 24 hours prior to the exam so that the proper arrangements can be made.

When time is called at the end of the exam, you must immediately stop working and submit your exam and scantron form. You will not be allowed more time for any reason. You must remain silent until every exam has been collected. Failure to stop working when time is called or to stay silent until all exams have been collected will result in a zero on the exam.

### Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. Relevant to this course, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students’ responses. This will be used for every assessment we take in this course.

**In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University.** Strong evidence of cheating will result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student’s transcript.

### Reach out and ask for help if you need it

University students often encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. If you run into difficulties and need assistance, I encourage you to contact me by email or phone during my office hours, before or after class, or by dropping into my office (CIRS 4243B). I will do my best to support your success during the term. This includes identifying concerns I may have about your academic progress or wellbeing through Early Alert. With Early Alert, faculty members can connect you with advisors who offer students support and assistance getting back on track to success. Only specialized UBC advisors are able to access any concerns I may identify, and Early Alert does not affect your academic record.

For more information about Early Alert, visit [earlyalert.ubc.ca](http://earlyalert.ubc.ca)

For information about addressing mental or physical health concerns, including seeing a UBC counsellor or doctor, visit [students.ubc.ca/livewell](http://students.ubc.ca/livewell)

*Lecture and Reading Schedule*

Lec	Date	Day	Topic	Chap	Learning Curve
1	5 Jan	M	Orientation		
2	7 Jan	W	Psychology – Past and Present	1	2 due: 1a, 1c
3	9 Jan	F			
4	12 Jan	M	Ways and Means in Psychology	2	3 due: 2a, 2b, 2c
5	14 Jan	W			
6	16 Jan	F			
7	19 Jan	M	The Nervous System – Neurons & Brains	3	3 due: 3a, 3b, 3c
8	21 Jan	W			
9	23 Jan	F			
10	26 Jan	M			
11	28 Jan	W	Investigating the Mind	3	3 due: 3d, 3d, 3f
12	30 Jan	F			
13	2 Feb	M			
14	4 Feb	W	Review (LC - CONFERENCE)		
15	6 Feb	F	MIDTERM 1		
16	9 Feb	M	NO LECTURE - FAMILY DAY		
17	11 Feb	W	Sensation & Perception	4	4 due: 4a, 4b, 4c, + 1
18	13 Feb	F			
	16 Feb	M	NO LECTURE – READING WEEK		
	18 Feb	W	NO LECTURE – READING WEEK		
	20 Feb	F	NO LECTURE – READING WEEK		
19	23 Feb	M	Sensation & Perception	4	
20	25 Feb	W			
21	27 Feb	F	Learning	7	3 due: 7a, 7b, 7c
22	2 Mar	M			
23	4 Mar	W			
24	6 Mar	F	Memory	6	3 due: 6a, 6b, 6c
25	9 Mar	M			
26	11 Mar	W	Recap / Midterm Prep		
27	13 Mar	F	MIDTERM 2		
28	16 Mar	M	Higher Functions		
29	18 Mar	W			
30	20 Mar	F	Thinking & Language  (LC – CONFERENCE)	9	3 due: 9a, 9b, 9c  3 due: 5a, 5b, 5c
31	23 Mar	M			
32	25 Mar	W			
33	27 Mar	F			
34	30 Mar	M			
35	1 Apr	W	Consciousness	5	
36	3 Apr	F	GOOD FRIDAY - NO LECTURE		
37	6 Apr	M	EASTER MONDAY – NO LECTURE		
38	8 Apr	W	Consciousness & Review	5	3 due: 5d, 6d, 7d
39	10 Apr	F			
	TBA		FINAL EXAMINATION		