



# INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY

## ABOUT PSYC 101

This psychology course will introduce you to some of the major research areas within the field of psychology: the scientific study of behaviour. The course begins with an overview of psychology and its research methods. Next, the course covers the biological basis of behaviour as well as cognitive psychology (the brain and the mind respectively). Specifically, we will examine how people think, remember, learn new skills, communicate, and perceive objects and others using our senses.

## LEARNING LEADERS

### Instructor:



**Mark Lam**  
[mlam@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:mlam@psych.ubc.ca)  
Room 4035, Audain Arts Centre  
Office hours: Wednesday 1pm  
or by appointment

### Teaching Assistants (TAs)

Your TAs are here to help you learn. They will hold office hours, answer your questions, offer advice and respond to your emails. If you can't attend their office hours, please email them to arrange an alternate time. They will also help me assess your learning by grading exams and assignments.



**Jennifer Campbell**  
[campbejc@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:campbejc@psych.ubc.ca)  
Room 1005, Kenny Building  
Office hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30  
\*Please email in advance if you  
plan on visiting



**Natalie Miller**  
[nvmiller@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:nvmiller@psych.ubc.ca)  
Room 2011, Kenny Building  
Office hours: Wednesday 11-12  
\*Please email in advance if you  
plan on visiting

**EMAILS: Please put "Psyc 101" in the Subject line** and use your UBC email account or your message could get lost. **Before emailing, please check** with your class notes, syllabus, and classmates for an answer to your question. Emails will be answered on weekdays during normal working hours. Please limit emailed questions to ones that can be answered briefly. For more complex questions, please come to our office hours or contact one of us to schedule an appointment.

## LEARNING GOALS

By the end of this course you should be able to...

1. define modern psychology and identify the major perspectives within it
2. recognize, recall, connect, and evaluate psychological concepts and theories from specific subfields (e.g., biological and cognitive psychology)
3. critically evaluate new evidence about behaviour that you encounter in your daily life
4. Understand and explain basic research methods currently employed by psychologists
5. Explain the concept of an 'experiment,' and its strengths & weaknesses
6. use effective evidence-based study strategies based on current psychological research
7. use and interpret basic descriptive statistics
8. identify and avoid plagiarism when writing a psychology paper

## The PASS Program

PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) are optional weekly, one hour long meetings led by senior psychology undergraduates who have demonstrated excellence during their studies. During PASS meetings, you will develop learning techniques and receive targeted support to help you better understand the course material that you find most challenging. PASS meetings are for *everyone* in this course. Whether you are struggling to understand some course material or are looking for opportunities to extend your learning, PASS meetings are an excellent resource for you to increase your likelihood of success in this course. Importantly, these sessions are NOT a substitute for attending class or reading the textbook. It is *highly* recommended that you attend the PASS meetings on a regular basis. That said, you are welcome to only attend sessions when you feel it would be helpful to you.

Refer to the PASS schedule (posted on Connect) to learn more about the scheduling of these sessions. Note that you must sign up for these sessions – more details can be found on Connect regarding this process.

Your PASS leaders for PSYC 101 are: Brooke, Catherine, Mikayla, & Rohina. You should connect with a PASS leader if you have any questions about the PASS program, or the material covered *during* PASS meetings.



Brooke



Catherine



Mikayla



Rohina

Learning Evaluation Summary	Total Points	Dates
3 midterms (worth 15% each, lowest/missing exam is dropped)	30%	Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Oct 26 <sup>th</sup> , Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>
Cumulative Final exam	40%	During exam period Dec 8-22
Assignments		
• # 1: Research in the media	8%	Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>
• # 2: Summarizing psychological research	10%	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>
Engagement in Learning		
• In class participation (via i>clicker)	4%	Throughout the term
• PeerWise Question Creation (2% per midterm)	6%	Questions: Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> , Oct 21 <sup>th</sup> Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>
• Research Experience Component (REC)	2%	Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> – Last day for HSP and library summaries
Total	100%	
Bonus REC participation (1% per hour or per summary)	3%	Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> – Last day for HSP and library summaries

## LEARNING EVALUATION DETAILS

### 1. Exams (70%)

There will be 3 **non-cumulative** midterm exams (2 highest midterms worth 15% each, lowest/missing exam is not counted) during the term. It is strongly recommended that you write all three. **No makeup midterms will be given.**

During the December exam period there will be a **cumulative** final exam (40%). The date of this exam is scheduled by the registrar.

#### Notes on the Exams:

- You are responsible for all material covered in lecture and from the assigned readings. There will be topics covered in class that are not discussed in the assigned readings and topics in the assigned readings not covered in lecture. You are responsible for both.
- Exams will include a mix of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions.
- Note that the instruction on all multiple-choice questions will be to “select the single best response.”
- Scantron sheets are to be completed during the exam. No additional time will be given once the exam has ended. **Unanswered questions on the scantron sheet will be not be graded.**
- No electronic devices are permitted during exams (e.g. cell phones, laptops, Google Glass).
- Once exams have been marked, grades will be available on Connect.
- You are strongly encouraged to review your exam with your teaching assistants to determine what you did well and what you can improve on.

### 2. Writing about psychology assignments (18%)

**#1: Research in the Media (8%)** Students will be provided with a media article which summarizes specific findings from psychological research, and

asked to critique this report by locating and comparing it to the primary source.

### #2: Summarizing Psychological Research (10%)

A psychological research article will be assigned for students to read and summarize.

These assignments are to be completed individually. More detailed instructions will be provided on Connect during the term.

### 3. Learning Engagement (12%, up to 3% bonus)

Active participation and engagement will promote better comprehension and retention of the material you are learning and will be evaluated by the following:

## LEARNING EVALUATION DETAILS (cont)

### Attendance and In-Class Participation via iClicker (4%)

Each lecture will have content that requires you to either vote or answer a question using i>clicker. If you answer at least 75% of the i>clicker questions during a class period and answer at least one question correctly per class, for at least 75% of the classes during the whole term, you'll earn 4%.

**PeerWise Question Creation (6%)** PeerWise is a tool that allows you to create, share and evaluate assessment questions with your classmates. This is an excellent method of studying for exams. You will be required to compose 1 question (and provide explanations for each possible answer) per midterm and provide constructive feedback for two other student's question. Your grade will be based on the quality of your question and feedback, as assessed by your TAs.

Start by visiting

[http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?ubc\\_ca](http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?ubc_ca). Then, click the “Registration” link and follow the prompts. All you need to do is choose a user name and a password for your PeerWise account. To access our course, “PSYC 101-002 2015”, you will need to enter two pieces of information:

1. Course ID = 11690
2. Identifier = Your student ID

**Research participation (2%, up to 3% bonus).** 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 a way of introducing you

to cutting edge research in psychology. This REC will be worth 2% of your grade and up to 3% bonus. You are free to choose one of two options:

### 1. Experimental Participation

Most students will choose to earn their REC by participating in psychology studies (1% per hour) through the Psychology department's Human Subject Pool (HSP). You can locate, create an account, and sign up for studies by going to <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com>. **HSP closes on the last day of classes**, so it is strongly suggested you participate in studies earlier in the term. More information about HSP can be found at <http://psych.ubc.ca/internal/human-subject-pool/>.

### 2. Library Alternative

As an alternative to participation the HSP, you may complete a library-writing project. Such projects consist of reading and summarizing 1) the research question, 2) the methods and 3) the results (in written form) of a research article from *Psychological Science*. You will receive 1 REC credit for each article summary. Summaries must be submitted **by the last day of classes**. For more details see "Subject Pool Information for Participants," at <http://psych.ubc.ca/internal/human-subject-pool/>.

## COURSE MATERIALS

**1. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK** Lilienfeld, S. O., Lynn, S. J., Namy, L. L., Woolf, N. J., Cramer, K. M., & Schmaltz, R. (2013). *Psychology: From Inquiry to Understanding, (2nd Canadian ed.)*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada Inc.

Using the 1st Canadian edition is *not recommended* because some major changes occurred in this edition. A hard copy of the text is available to buy from the UBC Bookstore or Discount Textbooks. The bookstore package includes access to MyPsychLab study guide, and the e-text. Note this course package will be used in your Term 2 course, Psyc 102 (so make sure to keep it after you are done with this course).

**2. Required:** i>clicker. This tool will be used for questions and polls during lectures. It can be purchased used or from the bookstore. You must register your i>clicker in Connect in order to get course credit for your use of your i>clicker.

**3. Required Connect Course Website** Our course website is [www.connect.ubc.ca](http://www.connect.ubc.ca). Log in using your CWL. Register your i>clicker, download PowerPoint slides **after** each

lesson, announcements, discuss course material with your classmates, check your grades, and more! You are responsible for checking this site frequently.

**Optional:** Any additional learning aids associated with the textbook (e.g., "MyPsychLab") are optional. Although they might be useful for enhancing your understanding and retention of the course materials, you will never be examined on any materials contained in these learning aids.

## GRADING

The Department of Psychology reserves the right to **scale** grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to departmental norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record. With regards to this policy, the Department of Psychology has adopted the following target grade distributions in 100- and 200-level courses and reserves the right to adjust final grades in this course if the distribution deviates substantially from the target: 67 for an exceptionally strong class, 65 for an average class, and 63 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 14.

You are earning a degree at a highly reputable post-secondary institution. Therefore, criteria for success are high. The Faculty of Arts offers the following guidelines that broadly characterize the kind of work that is generally associated with the main grade ranges. These characteristics help to put the Psychology Department Grading Policies into context. Note that adequate performance is in the C range, which is the typical class average.

A+	90-100%	C+	64-67%
A	85-89%	C	60-63%
A-	80-84%	C-	55-59%
B+	76-79%	D	50-54%
B	72-75%	F	0-49%
B-	68-71%		

## ATTENDANCE

In this course, material that is taught in class may be different from or supplement the course readings. It is, therefore, essential you attend class and read ahead in the text. If you do have to miss a class, **you** are responsible for getting notes from another student.

If you miss a midterm exam due to illness, death or loss of a loved one, or varsity sports, remember that your lowest midterm grade will not be counted. However, **no make-up midterms will be given**, so don't miss two.

If the December exam is missed, you must apply through the Registrar's office to write a make-up exam--they will probably require medical or other documentation. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for details of 'academic concession.'

During your time in this course, if you encounter medical, emotional, or other personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, please notify me, as well as your Academic Advisor. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for a discussion of academic concession.

The University also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance or scheduled exams. Please let us know in advance, preferably in the first few weeks of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Other absences (e.g., varsity athletics, family obligations or similar) are not part of University policy and you should not assume they will be accommodated. Please discuss this with me before the withdrawal dates (above).

**Early Alert Program.** We participate in the Early Alert program, which helps us support students who are facing difficulties that are interfering with school. For answers to frequently asked questions regarding the early alert program, please visit

[blog.students.ubc.ca/earlyalert/information-for-students/students-frequently-asked-questions/](http://blog.students.ubc.ca/earlyalert/information-for-students/students-frequently-asked-questions/).

**PHYSICAL OR LEARNING DISABILITIES** UBC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. If you have a disability that affects your learning in the classroom or your performance on tests or exams, please contact **Access & Diversity** in Brock Hall 1203, 1874 East Mall, Contact: 604.822.5844, [www.students.ubc.ca/access](http://www.students.ubc.ca/access).

## A FEW ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Productive and respectful classroom questions, discussions, and debate are encouraged.
- Lectures will typically focus on particularly important and/or interesting ideas. You are responsible for all readings and lecture materials.
- Lecture slides will be made available on Connect. However, if you miss a lecture, don't expect to find all of what you missed in the slides. (Ask a friend!)
- Lecture slides will be posted on Connect the night following each lecture. This is done as a courtesy.
- Laptops and similar devices can be effective learning tools and are welcome in class. However, if you are using them for non-class-related activities it can be a distraction to your learning (and others'). Please be considerate.

**Course Schedule** Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the Connect website.

<b>Week (dates)</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Reminders</b>	<b>Assignments/Exams</b>
<b>1</b> Sept 9,11	THIS SYLLABUS!!!	Register your i>clicker Register for PeerWise	
<b>2</b> Sept 14,16,18	Ch 1	Sign up for HSP studies	
<b>3</b> Sept 21, 23,25	Ch 2 Research methods		Sunday Sept 27 <b>Peerwise</b>
<b>4</b> Sept 28,30, Oct 2	Ch 2 Research methods (cont)		Friday Oct 2 <b>Midterm 1</b>
<b>5</b> Oct 5,7,9	Ch 3 Biological & Evolutionary Psych		
<b>6</b> Oct <b>12,14,16</b>	Ch 3 continued Ch 4 Sensation& Perception	Monday Oct 12 – no class Thanksgiving!	Friday Oct 16 <b>Assignment 1</b>
<b>7</b> Oct 19, 21,23	Ch 4 Continued		Wednesday October 21 Peerwise
<b>8</b> Oct <b>26,28,30</b>	Ch 5 Consciousness		Monday Oct 26 <b>Midterm 2</b>
<b>9</b> Nov 2,4,6	Ch 5 Continued		
<b>10</b> Nov 9,11, 13	Ch 6 Learning	Wednesday Nov 11 – no Class Remembrance Day	Sunday Nov 15 <b>Peerwise</b>
<b>11</b> Nov 16,18, <b>20</b>	Ch 6 Continued		Friday Nov 20 <b>Midterm 3</b>
<b>12</b> Nov 23,25,27	Ch 7 Memory		
<b>13</b> Nov 30, Dec 2, 4	Ch 8 Language, Thinking & Reasoning	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> – Last day for REC (HSP & Library options)	Friday Dec 4 <b>Assignment 2</b>

## WITHDRAWAL DATES

If you wish to withdraw from this course without any record of the course on your transcript, you must do so on or before **25 Sept**. If you wish to withdraw with a “W” on your transcript, you must do so on or before **Oct 16**.

**\*\*Please note that you must be enrolled in all courses within a stream to remain eligible for CAP. If you are considering dropping a course, please contact the Program Assistants in the CAP Office (IBLC 379)**

## GRADE BUMPS

When computing final grades, the instructor carefully analyzes every single student to determine whether a grade bump is deserved. Bumps may be awarded for consistent performance at a major grade boundary or for marked improvement from the midterm to the final (10%+ at minimum). Bumps are not guaranteed and are *\*not\** awarded for non-academic reasons (i.e., student is graduating and/or involved in sports or other extracurricular activities). **DO NOT send the instructor an email asking for a grade bump.**

## 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. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students’ responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn—a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn’s own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized “Originality Reports” containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

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 or plagiarism** may 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 the student’s transcript.

**All graded work** in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done **independently** by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Student Conduct and Discipline in the UBC Calendar (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>) and also understand its policy on Academic Honesty and Standards (available at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0>).

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