Psychology 101 – Section 901
Introduction to biological and cognitive psychology
3 credits

University of British Columbia, Vancouver
Winter Term I (Fall 2017)
W 17:00 – 20:00
Hennings 202

Instructor
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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 the history of psychology, research methods, neuroscience, learning and memory, language, consciousness, and thinking. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- describe how scientific methods can be applied to areas of inquiry in psychology. This will include research design, major techniques and measures, and interpretation of data.
- display knowledge about the organisation of the nervous system at multiple levels, from single neurons, to brain networks.
- describe how different neural structures are linked to different psychological processes.
- apply research to everyday life.

Required materials

Psychology, Canadian 4th Edition (2017) with six months Launchpad access
ISBN: 9781319127558 (loose-leaf)
The bookstore is stocking the loose-leaf version of the textbook, packaged with a code giving you six months access to Launchpad (the online learning environment we will be using throughout the course). It is also possible to buy Launchpad directly without a hard copy of the book (it includes an electronic copy of the book).

The Launchpad website associated with this course is: http://bit.ly/psych101_901

From this website you can enter the code you purchased with the hard copy of the book, purchase Launchpad (which includes the e-book), or sign up for a free 21 day trial. You will need to enter your 8-digit UBC student number. If you have problems accessing Launchpad, contact customer support here: https://community.macmillan.com/community/digital-product-support
The first Launchpad assignment is due on the 15th September, so ensure you have access well before this date.

This is a new version of the textbook, containing up to date information absent from the previous versions. It is essential that you purchase the Canadian 4th edition, as material absent from the other editions is eligible to be included in the examinations, and purchasing previous editions will not give you access to Launchpad for the Canadian 4th edition.

Canvas

You can access the course website via Canvas (https://canvas.ubc.ca/). Please check the website frequently, as this is where updates will be posted. Here you will find the course syllabus (this document), lecture slides, additional reading, and be able to view your grades.

Lecture slides will be posted after the lecture. Each slide will be numbered so you can easily take notes during the lecture.

Piazza

We’ll be conducting all class-related discussion on piazza.com this term. The quicker you begin asking questions on Piazza (rather than via emails), the quicker you’ll benefit from the collective knowledge of your classmates and instructors. We encourage you to ask questions when you’re struggling to understand a concept—you can even do so anonymously.
You may discuss the class assignments here, and help each other with concepts, but please DO NOT provide specific answers to any assignments. Providing answers to these activities is considered academic misconduct.

Visit http://piazza.com/ubc.ca/winterterm12017/psyc101901 to sign up to the Piazza class page. You will be able to use Piazza from within Canvas once you have created your account.

Course requirements

1. Midterm examination
(34% of course grade)
This examination will consist of multiple choice questions that will test your understanding of the text book and lecture material covered so far. To perform well, you must have a clear understanding of both the lecture and textbook content. The midterm will take place in the Hennings 202 lecture theatre at the usual class time.

2. Final examination
(35% of course grade)
This will be structurally similar to the midterm, but will cover lecture and textbook material covered after the midterm (it will be non-cumulative).

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 final exams. You CANNOT take the final at a different date/time/place unless you have a verifiable reason.

3. Quizzes (16% of the course grade)
Four of the lectures will start with a multiple choice quiz. Material from the preceding lectures will eligible for inclusion (see the course schedule for details of which lectures will be covered in each of the quizzes). Each quiz will contribute 4% to your course grade. If you miss one quiz (even without a validated reason) your score on that quiz will be calculated as an average of the quizzes you do attend. If you miss more than one quiz, and do not provide a validated reason, you will receive zero for that quiz. If you provide a validated reason, your score on the additional missed quiz will be calculated as an average of those you do complete. (See the missed midterm section for information on validated excuses).

4. Launchpad exercises
(13% of course grade)
Each week (with a few exceptions, see the course schedule at the end of this document) you will be assigned exercises on Launchpad. The deadline for these exercises is 11.59pm on the Friday after the relevant lecture. There are two types of exercises you will be assigned:

a. **Learning Curve (5% of course grade).** These are online tests that cover the textbook material and reward you for completing the assigned readings. You are required to answer questions until you reach the required score. Each Learning Curve will only be counted if completed prior to the due date. You need to complete 20 out of the 24 exercises for the full 5% grade. This gives you the opportunity to drop 4 Learning Curves over the course of the term and still receive the full grade. If you join the course late, or are ill during term, then this may use up some of your ‘drop-able’ exercises – you do not need to contact us to discuss this.

b. **Data visualisation activities (8% of the course grade).**
   You will also be required to complete online Data visualisation activities throughout the term. These give you the opportunity to practice understanding and interpreting data, building your quantitative reasoning skills. You will be assigned 8 of these activities throughout the term and you need to complete them all. Each activity will be weighted equally and, unlike Learning Curve, your grade will be based on your performance on the activities. If you join the course late, or have a validated reason not complete all 8 activities, we will calculate your grade contribution based on the average of those you did complete. If you do not have a validated reason for failing to complete 8, you will receive a zero for the missing activities. (See the missed midterm section for information on validated excuses).

5. **Research Experience Component (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:

a. **Participate in the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool.**
   Most students will choose to earn their research experience component by spending two hours participating in psychology studies (worth 1% point for each hour) through the Department of Psychology’s Human Subject Pool (HSP) system. You can locate, create an account, and sign up for studies by going to [https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/](https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/). 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 confirm your accumulated credits afterward. At the end of the last day of class for the term, the subject pool is closed. At that point, you will no longer be able to receive credits. We strongly urge you to participate in and confirm your credits long before the last week of class. Further instruction on how to use the HSP online system can be found at: http://psych.ubc.ca/internal/human-subject-pool/ in the document entitled “Subject Pool Information for Participants.”

b. Alternative assignment: The Library Option.

As an alternative to participation in psychology subject pool experiments, 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 the peer reviewed journal Psychological Science. You will receive one (1) research participation credit for each article summary that meets the following requirements.

- The article must have been published in the journal titled “Psychological Science”
- The article must have a publication date from the year 2000 to present (i.e. papers from 2001 are acceptable; those from 1999 or earlier are not)
- The article must be a research article; it cannot be a review article, a news item, a notice, or a letter to the editor, for example
- The summary should be approximately 500 words in length
- You must include your name, student number, course, section, instructor and email address on each summary
- You must log on to the Human Subject Pool system (https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/) and create an account before submitting your article summaries. Your credit is assigned using the online system.

For each course, you may obtain the same number of extra credits via the library option as specified in the course syllabus (i.e. the same number of credits available for students who participate in research).

Summaries must be submitted no later than 10 days before the end of classes. You are to submit your article and your summary to Turnitin.com. If you don’t have a Turnitin account already (from a previous course), you will need to create a user account in Turnitin. For the library assignment the class ID is 6880064, class name is Library Option for HSP, and password is research. See www.turnitin.com, and click on the “Training” link at the top of the page for detailed instructions on how to submit papers to Turnitin.
Any student who is suspected of plagiarism will, at a minimum, not be granted credit, and their course instructor will be notified. Further action may be taken at a departmental or university level.

6. Extra credit (optional)
You may earn up to 3% extra credit that will be added to your final grade. These extra credits can be earned by doing up to three additional hours of study participation in the HSP (or summarizing another three additional journal articles for the library option) as described above as the research experience component of the course.

Any HSP 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. 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.

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

Office hours
Your TA will hold a weekly office hour, and, in most cases, this is where you should look to receive help with the course content. Questions about grading and student welfare should be referred to your instructor. There will be time at the start of each lecture to ask questions regarding the previous lecture. If you need to meet with your instructor, please contact her by email.

**Emails**
In most cases we will answer emails within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Please include PSYC 101 in the header, and try to explain your current understanding of the concept in the email. If you have multiple questions, you should consider visiting your TAs office hour or arranging a meeting with your instructor. Please address questions to your TA regarding textbook material, exam preparation, grades, and exam review. Please address emails to your instructor for clarification on anything presented during the lecture, or if you are unable to address your concern with the TA.

**Class attendance**
We strongly recommend that you attend the lectures. If you are unable to attend a lecture, reach out to a classmate to copy their notes. The lecture slides will act as an outline for the material covered, and will not contain detailed notes. Material that is covered verbally in the lectures is eligible for inclusion in the exams. The lectures will cover material that is not covered in the textbook.

**Class preparation**
Before you attend the lecture, you will be expected to read the relevant chapters in the textbook. It is essential that you turn up to class prepared, as the lectures will only focus on key concepts and demand active participation, for which prior knowledge of the material is required.

**Missed exams**
The midterm and class quizzes cannot be taken at another time. If you miss the 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 your instructor 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, although the Student Health Service will provide such validations for Final exams, they will not provide these for midterms or quizzes. Personal or family circumstances that require you to miss an exam must be verified by a written letter of explanation from a medical professional or
student counsellor. If you are experiencing personal difficulties, your instructor can be more supportive if you contact her ahead of the exam rather than after you have missed the exam.

Where a valid excuse exists, your mark from the missing Midterm will be calculated from the average of the Final exam. The same applies to the quizzes. If you miss the Final examination, you must connect with Arts to address the issue. Make-ups for the Final will 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) another 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 your instructor 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.

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 Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (http://students.ubc.ca/calendar) and read the University’s Policy 69 (available at http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2010/08/policy69.pdf).
# Course schedule

Use this schedule to ensure that you complete the assigned readings before the lecture, and complete the Launchpad exercises before the due date/time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Class quiz</th>
<th>Assignments (Launchpad)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6th Sept</td>
<td>Introduction, History (Ch1)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Get access to Launchpad!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | 13th Sept| Methods in psychology (Ch2) |           | Due Friday 15th Sept (11.59pm)  
- 2a, 2b, 2c Learning curve  
- 1d Data visualisation activity |
| 3    | 20th Sept| Neuroscience and behaviour pt1 (Ch3 p77 – 104) | LT 1, 2 Ch 1, 2 | Due Friday 22nd Sept (11.59pm)  
- 3a, 3b Learning curve  
- 2b Data visualisation activity |
| 4    | 27th Sept| Neuroscience and behaviour pt2 (Ch3 p104 – 121) |           | Due Friday 29th Sept (11.59pm)  
- 3c, 3d Learning curve  
- 3d Data visualisation activity |
| 5    | 4th Oct | Sensation and perception pt 1 (Ch4 p127 – 152) | LT 3, 4 Ch 3 | Due Friday 6th Oct (11.59pm)  
- 4a, 4b, 4c Learning curve (a, b, c)  
- 4c Data visualisation activity |
| 6    | 11th Oct| Sensation and perception pt 2 (Ch4 p153 – 168) |           | Due Friday 13th Oct (11.59pm)  
- 4d, 4e Learning curve |
| 7    | 18th Oct| MIDTERM EXAMINATION |           |                         |
| 8    | 25th Oct| Consciousness (Ch5) |           | Due Friday 27th Oct (11.59pm)  
- 5a, 5b, 5c Learning curve  
- 5b Data visualisation activity |
| 9    | 1st Nov | Learning (Ch7) | LT 8 Ch 5 | Due Friday 3rd Nov (11.59pm)  
- 7a, 7b, 7c Learning curve  
- 7c Data visualisation activity |
| 10   | 8th Nov | Memory (Ch6) |           | Due Friday 10th Nov (11.59pm)  
- 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d Learning curve  
- 6a Data visualisation activity |
| 11   | 15th Nov| Language (Ch9 p352 – 369) | LT 9, 10 Ch 7, 6 | Due Friday 17th Nov (11.59pm)  
- 9a, 9b Learning curve  
- 9a Data visualisation activity |
| 12   | 22nd Nov| Thinking (Ch9 p370 – 393) |           |                         |
| 13   | 29th Nov| TBA |           |                         |
| 14   | TBA | NON-CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAMINATION |           |                         |