ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY 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, and then covers several fundamental topics in psychology (for example, biological psychology, learning and memory, consciousness, and language).

This section of PSYC101 is a distance education course that uses the content-rich edX (see edx.org) platform. The course uses an open-source text that is supplemented by many video-based lectures and online resources. In addition, the course contains interviews with some leading research psychologists, some demonstrations of psychological phenomena, and some educational animations.

Instructor:  Steven Barnes
sjb@psych.ubc.ca
In-Person Office Hours: by appointment
Please contact Steven for any course-related administrative and/or academic accommodations.

Teaching Assistant:  Jill Dosso
jill.dosso@psych.ubc.ca
In-Person Office Hours: by appointment
Please contact Jill for any other course-related questions.

Marker:  Natasha Au
natashaau@alumni.ubc.ca
Natasha should only be contacted after your final exam has been graded to arrange a viewing time for the exam.

Important Notes:
1. We encourage you to use the online discussion forums for your questions as that allows other students to benefit from your questions and your TA’s and peer’s response.
2. In most cases, email messages will be answered within 48 hours on weekdays (not on weekends) during normal working hours.
3. When you send us an email, the subject line should include the course number and the nature of the inquiry (i.e., “PSYC 101 – Question about the limbic system”);
4. If you do send us an email that is content related, it should contain no more than one question and you should try to explain your current understanding of the content in the email (which will be affirmed or corrected by myself or Jill).

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of this course you should be able to
1. Explain what psychology is and isn’t.
2. Describe the history and evolution of the field of psychology.
3. Describe the different types of psychologists and explain the sorts of work that each type of psychologist is engaged in.
4. Understand the nature of scientific inquiry.
5. Define modern psychology and identify the major perspectives within it.
6. Recognize, recall, connect, and evaluate psychological concepts and theories from specific subfields (e.g., biological and cognitive psychology).
7. Understand and explain basic research methods currently
employed by psychologists.
8. Explain the concept of an ‘experiment’; its strengths and its weaknesses.
9. Use effective evidence-based study strategies based on current psychological research.
10. Use and interpret basic descriptive statistics.
11. Understand the purposes of inferential statistics, and be able to interpret some basic inferential statistics.
12. Identify and avoid plagiarism when writing a psychology assignment.

**EVALUATION**

**1. Final Exam (60%):**
There will be one cumulative final exam which will be written during the exam period at a time designated by the Registrar’s Office (you must be available to write at any time during the August exam period). **Note that you must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.**

Final Exam (60%) Aug 14-18 (exam period)

**Notes on the Final Exam:**
- There will be topics covered in the video lectures that are not in the readings and topics in the readings that are not covered in the video lectures. You will be responsible for both. That is, all readings and all class materials are examinable.
- The final exam will be composed of multiple-choice questions.
- Note that the instruction on all multiple-choice questions will be to “select the single best response.”
- If you encounter what you believe to be a faulty question on the final exam, answer it to the best of your ability under the circumstances, and write a brief explanation of what you think is the problem on the front of your exam. Occasionally, bonus marks are awarded to those who spot subtle ambiguities or errors.
- Once the final has been marked, your grade will be available on Canvas.
- If you miss the final exam, you must contact your Faculty Academic Advising Office to address the issue—note that they will probably require medical or other documentation. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for details of ‘academic concession.’ Please note that a makeup for the Final Exam will differ from the versions used for the rest of the course.
- The date of the final exam is not announced by the University until early July—you should not make any travel plans until you know the date of the final exam.
- If you plan to write the final exam at a location other than the UBC Vancouver campus, please be aware that there is a deadline (that date should have been sent to you via email by UBC) for applications to write the exam remotely.

**2. Lecture Self-Check Questions (4%):**
During each week of this course, there will be self-check questions associated with most course lecture videos. All self-check questions will use the multiple-choice format.

Please note that there will be no extensions on the lecture self-checks. If you cannot complete one of these lecture self-checks, and you have a valid excuse, the weight of the missed lecture self-check will be spread amongst the other lecture self-checks.

Please note that the lecture self-checks from the first two weeks of the course will have a due date of May 28 at 2 am—this is after the add/drop deadline (i.e., May 25) so that anyone joining the course late is not penalized for missing earlier materials. After the first three weeks, deadlines will be weekly. In general, after the first two weeks, all lecture self-check questions will be due by 2 am on the Monday following the week they are assigned.

**3. Readings-Review Questions (4%):**
During each week of this course, there will be review questions associated with the assigned readings. All readings-review questions will use the multiple-choice format.

Please note that there will be no extensions on the readings reviews. If you cannot complete one of these readings reviews, and you have a valid excuse, the weight of the missed readings review will be spread amongst the other readings reviews.

Please note that the readings-review questions from the first two weeks of the course will have a due date of May 28 at 2 am—this is after the add/drop deadline (i.e., May 25) so that anyone joining the course late is not penalized for missing earlier materials. After the first three weeks, deadlines will be weekly. In general, after the first two weeks, all readings-review questions will be due by 2 am on the Monday following the week they are assigned.

**4. Quizzes (12%):**
During each week of this course, there will be a quiz. All of the quizzes will use the multiple-choice format. Some quizzes will also have a single short-answer question. Quizzes will be timed; once you begin the quiz, you will have 20 min to complete it.

Please note that if you have an accommodation through Access & Diversity (see below) for extra time for quizzes and exams, you will need to inform me before you attempt the first quiz so that I can add additional time for you for all the course quizzes.

Please also note that there will be no extensions on the quizzes. If you cannot complete one of these quizzes, and you have a valid excuse, the weight of the missed quiz will be spread between the other quizzes.
Please note that the quizzes from the first two weeks of the course will have a due date of May 28 at 2 am--this is after the add/drop deadline (i.e., May 25) so that anyone joining the course late is not penalized for missing earlier materials. After the first three weeks, deadlines will be weekly. In general, after the first two weeks, all quizzes will be due by 2 am on the Monday following the week they are assigned.

5. Discussion Questions (5%):
During the course there will be one peer-graded discussion question per week. For each discussion question, you must respond to the question and also grade four of your peers responses to the same question.

Please note that the discussion questions from the first two weeks of the course will have a due date of May 28 at 2 am-this is after the add/drop deadline (i.e., May 25) so that anyone joining the course late is not penalized for missing earlier materials. After the first three weeks, deadlines will be weekly. In general, after the first two weeks, all discussion questions will be due by 2 am on the Monday following the week they are assigned.

6. Written Assignment (15%):
There will be one written assignment in this course. The goal of this assignment is to get you comfortable with reading and critiquing the psychological literature.

Critique of News Article (15%)  Jul 16

Please note that late assignments will not be accepted. If you cannot complete the assignment, and you have a valid excuse, then the weight of the assignment will be shifted to the final exam.

Critique of News Article. For this assignment, you will find a recent news article (i.e., published in 2017 or later) that reports on some research related to a topic covered in this course. You will then locate the source journal article from which the news article was based, read that journal article, and then write a critique of the news article (1000 words minimum; 1500 words maximum). Be sure to include either a link to the news article or the news article itself in your submission. This written assignment must be submitted via Turnitin (see below).

Turnitin. Please note that you must submit your critique using a two-step submission procedure:

1. Submit a copy of your final draft by 2 am on Jul 16 to Turnitin.com. Late assignments will not be accepted.
   - To submit your paper on Turnitin you will need to go to turnitin.com, create an account if you do not yet have one (see below), select “enroll in a class,” enter our Class ID (18068434) and Enrollment Password (alwayscite), and submit your paper as a Microsoft .doc or .docx file.

2. Submit your Turnitin username via the edX course platform by 2 am on the due date. Without this information we will not be able to identify your paper on Turnitin.

Setting up an account on Turnitin. To submit your paper on Turnitin.com, you will need to create a unique user profile, consisting of a username (e-mail address) and password. Please note that information submitted to Turnitin is stored in the United States.

If you have concerns about privacy, it is recommended that you remove identifying information, such as your name and student number, from the text of any assignment submitted to Turnitin. In addition, please follow these instructions:
1. Create an anonymous email address using one of the available free services.
3. At the top right, go to Create Account and select Student.
4. Enter the Class ID (18068434) and Enrollment Password (alwayscite).
5. Create an alias or pseudonym. Please remember to submit that alias/pseudonym via the edX platform.
6. Please delete any identifying information from the original document prior to uploading it. This includes your name and student number in the document, as well as any metadata or hidden data that might be stored in the document itself. To remove metadata from your Microsoft Word document:
   - Windows: You can remove the hidden data by using Microsoft Word’s Document Inspector.
   - Mac: You can remove the hidden data by clicking on Word > Preferences > Security, then selecting Remove personal information from this file on save.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required: OpenStax College. Psychology. OpenStax CNX. May 18, 2016. http://cnx.org/contents/4abf04bf-93a0-45c3-9cbc-2cefd46e68cc@5.46. This text was selected for this course because it is of high quality, it is free and open to use, and is at an appropriate reading level for an introductory psychology course. This text will be supplemented by many in-course videos and additional external resources that are designed to facilitate your understanding of the course materials. Please note that it is important that you either use the text that is embedded in the edX platform, or use version 5.46 of the OpenStax text (see link above).


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 May 25. If you wish to withdraw with a “W” on your transcript, you must do so on or before Jun 22.
GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

Grading. In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms for grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 100-level distance education class is 69 for a strong class, 67 for an average class, and 65 for a weak class (with a standard deviation of 13). Scaling may be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by myself or the department. Grades are not official until they appear on your transcript. You will receive both a percent and a letter grade for this course. At UBC, your course percentage is converted to a letter grade according to the following key:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>72-75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>68-71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>64-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>55-59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because you are earning a degree at a highly reputable post-secondary institution, the 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 particular grade ranges. These characteristics help put the Psychology Department grading policies into perspective. Please note that adequate performance is in the C range.

A Range: Exceptional Performance. Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization in written work; capacity to analyze (i.e., break ideas down) and to synthesize (i.e., bring different ideas together in a coherent way); superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

B Range: Competent Performance. Evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

C-D Range: Adequate Performance. Understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work; not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigor.

F Range: Inadequate Performance. Little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

Attendance. If the final exam is missed, you must apply through the Registrars 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 accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Access & Diversity office (see below). The University also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance or scheduled exams. Please let me 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.

Access & Diversity. UBC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. If you believe you fall in this category, please visit the website for Access & Diversity (students.ubc.ca/about/access) to take the necessary steps to ensure that you have every opportunity that you deserve to excel in your studies.

Early Alert Program. I participate in the Early Alert program, which helps me support students who are facing difficulties that are interfering with their education, their wellness or both. 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/.

Credit/D/Fail Grading. This course is eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading. The last day to change between Credit/D/Fail and percentage grading is May 25.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- There are 13 weeks and 8 chapters will be covered during the course. Plan your reading and studying accordingly.
- Productive discussion and debate on the edX discussion forums is encouraged.

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 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 what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult with me. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar ([students.ubc.ca/calendar](http://students.ubc.ca/calendar)) and read the University’s Policy 69 (available at [universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html](http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html)).

**WELLNESS RESOURCES**

Below is a list of resources you may want to use if you are struggling in any way to manage your responsibilities while in school or the stresses of life in general.

**The Kaleidoscope:**
[the-kaleidoscope.com](http://the-kaleidoscope.com)

A confidential peer-run mental health support group that takes place on campus at least once a week. You may attend the group if you are experiencing any kind of mental health related challenges, or if you’re just feeling stressed about school in general. Registration is not required to attend the group. See the website for meeting times and locations.

**Counselling Services:**
[students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/counselling-services](http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/counselling-services)

Phone number: 604-822-3811

Counselling services offers a variety of resources to help you maintain your mental health while in school. You may see a counsellor on an individual basis, attend group counseling, or to document an illness if you should require academic concession.

**SpeakEasy:**
[ams.ubc.ca/services/speakeasy/](http://ams.ubc.ca/services/speakeasy/)

Phone number: 604-822-9246

A student run service that offers confidential support for students experiencing crisis. Also a good resource for additional information and referrals within the UBC community.

**SHARE:**
[www.vivreshare.org](http://www.vivreshare.org)

Self Harm Anonymous Recovery and Education is a program designed to help you maintain your mental health while in school. You may see a counselor on an individual basis, attend group counseling, or to document an illness if you should require academic concession.

**UBC Wellness Centre:**
[students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/wellness-centre](http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/wellness-centre)

Phone number: 604-822-8450

Speak with other students about tips for managing stress, keeping healthy sleep and eating patterns, concerns about safe sex and more.

**Access and Diversity:**
[students.ubc.ca/about/access](http://students.ubc.ca/about/access)

604-822-5844

Access and Diversity provides accommodations for students living with physical or mental disabilities.

**Student Health Services:**
[students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/student-health-service](http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/student-health-service)

604-822-7011

Student health provides students with a variety of healthcare related services to help you maintain your health while studying. Access to doctors and registered nurses.

**Mood Disorders Clinic UBC:**
[ubc-mooddisorders.vch.ca/](http://ubc-mooddisorders.vch.ca/)

A psychiatric program designed specifically to treat individuals living with depression or bipolar disorder.

**Mental Health Awareness Club:**
[ubcmhac.sites.olt.ubc.ca/](http://ubcmhac.sites.olt.ubc.ca/)

A club that offers opportunities to speak about mental health with others and strives to promote mental health awareness throughout the UBC community.

**Pacific Spirit Addiction Services:**
3rd Floor, 2110 West 43rd Ave Vancouver B.C. V6M 2E1

Phone number: 604-267-3970

A free and confidential service for youth and young adults up to the age of 24. Services include counseling, access to an addiction physician - including usage of a methadone maintenance program - and a drug education series.

**AMS Food Bank:**
[ams.ubc.ca/services/food-bank/](http://ams.ubc.ca/services/food-bank/)

If you are in a financial emergency AMS food bank can provide you with a food hamper. You are able to use the service up to 6 times each term.

**UBC Psychology Clinic:**
[clinic.psych.ubc.ca](http://clinic.psych.ubc.ca)

Professional psychological services provided to the community, including assessment & treatment for children, adults & families by clinical psychology trainees.

**BC Crisis Center:**
[crisiscentre.bc.ca](http://crisiscentre.bc.ca)

Phone number: 604-872-3311

Non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that provides emotional support to youth, adults, and seniors in crisis in BC. Crisis line available 24/7.
Distress Line:
Phone number: 1-800-Suicide (784-2433)

If you are in distress or are worried about someone in distress who may hurt themselves, call 1-800-SUICIDE 24 hours a day to connect to a BC crisis line, without a wait or busy signal.

Last Modified: May 12, 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Assigned Readings (available on the edX course site)</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (May 14-20)</td>
<td>What is Psychology? (Psychology's History: Functionalism vs. Structuralism, Behaviorism, Psychophysics, Modern Approaches; Types of Psychologists)</td>
<td>Syllabus; OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 1 Introduction; Chapter 1, Sections 1.1 to 1.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 (Jun 4-10)</td>
<td>Neuroanatomy, Neural Transmission and the Endocrine System Pt. 1</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 3 Introduction; Chapter 3, Sections 3.2 to 3.5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 (Jun 11-17)</td>
<td>Neuroanatomy, Neural Transmission and the Endocrine System Pt. 2</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 3, Section 3.2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 (Jun 18-24)</td>
<td>Genetics, Evolutionary Psychology, and Behavior</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 3, Section 3.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 (Jun 25-Jul 1)</td>
<td>Visual System</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 5 Introduction; Chapter 5, Sections 5.1 to 5.3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 (Jul 2-8)</td>
<td>Other Sensory Systems, Perception and Attention</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 5, Sections 5.4 to 5.6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9 (Jul 9-15)</td>
<td>States of Consciousness</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 4 Introduction; Chapter 4, Sections 4.1 to 4.6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 (Jul 16-22)</td>
<td>Learning: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, and Social Learning.</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 6 Introduction; Chapter 6, Sections 6.1 to 6.4.</td>
<td>Critique of News Article (Jul 16 @ 2 am)</td>
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<td>Week 11 (Jul 23-29)</td>
<td>Cognition: Memory</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 8 Introduction; Chapter 8, Sections 8.1 to 8.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12 (Jul 30-Aug 5)</td>
<td>Cognition: Thinking and Reasoning</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 7 Introduction; Chapter 7, Sections 7.1 and 7.3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13 (Aug 6-12)</td>
<td>Cognition: Language</td>
<td>OpenStax Psychology: Chapter 7, Section 7.2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 14-18</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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</tbody>
</table>