

**PSY 1000: Introduction to Psychology  
Winter 2018**

**Instructor**

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**Course Meeting Time and Location**

Tue/Thurs 8 am - 9:47 am, 272 South Foundation Hall (SFH)

**Course Description**

This course is a broad survey of the primary areas of the field of psychology. As a discipline, psychological science is a systematic approach to studying the breadth of human cognitions and behaviours. Therefore, psychologists conduct research ranging from neural processes, genetics, development, individual differences, interpersonal relationships, and the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. The goal of this course is to expose students to the numerous approaches that psychologists may employ in the study of human mind and behaviour, but not to make them experts in these areas. To do so, the course will introduce psychology as a scientific discipline, explaining history and contemporary research methodology. The course will then proceed to specific topics of psychological research including basic neurobiological processes, sensation, learning, memory, individual differences, social and interpersonal phenomena, and psychological disorders and treatment.

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Required Text**

Licht, D. M., Hull, M. G., & Ballantyne, C. (2017). *Psychology* (2nd ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.  
ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-9949-3  
ISBN-10: 1-4641-9949-3

\*Note: LaunchPad [the online supplemental resources bundled/associated with the textbook] is NOT required for this course. LaunchPad includes activities, videos, and study aids for the text that you may find useful. You can get a 21-day free trial if you are unsure of its benefits.

**Course Procedures:** *Discussions, lectures, videos*

**General Education Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students will demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of concepts, methods, and theories designed to enhance understanding of human behaviour
2. Application of concepts and theories to problems among individuals

**Cross-Cutting Capacities:** Effective communication, critical thinking, recognition and evaluation of psychological research  
This course satisfies the General Education requirements in the Social Science Knowledge area.

**Course Objectives** (derived from American Psychological Association guidelines):

1. Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in the selected content areas of psychology: theory and research, history, levels of analysis, overarching themes, and ethical issues.
3. Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behaviour and mental processes.
4. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
5. Value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.

**Expectations**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community. Adherence to the Student Code of

Conduct will be expected; violations of this code will be reported to the Dean of Students. The Code of Academic and Student Conduct can be found at <http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/conduct.cfm>. In addition, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community. The instructor reserves the right to limit this course's survey of alternative perspectives to those that meet generally accepted standards of plausibility in the field of scholarship covered in this course, as judged by the instructor's professional opinion. Students are expected to show mastery of these perspectives in their spoken and written contributions.

### **Behaviour and Courtesy**

#### **USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.**

Multi-tasking, such as taking notes and texting, decreases your performance on both tasks. Note taking using electronic devices such as laptops diminishes your ability to absorb and retain information. It also introduces temptation and distractions. Research demonstrates that hand-writing is the most effective note taking strategy. If you do decide to use electronic devices anyway, it is asked that you please be courteous of your fellow students and sit in the back of the classroom so as to minimize the distractions to those around you. Disruptive classroom behaviour will be addressed by 1) a general announcement; 2) direct announcement; 3) a request to leave the classroom; 4) calling the Campus Police to have the student removed from the classroom.

**Add/Drops & Incompletes:** The University add/drop and incomplete grade policies will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the University deadline dates for dropping the course.

**Make-up Examinations:** If a student misses an exam for whatever reason, it may be made up on day of the final exam. Efforts should be made to take all exams at their scheduled time since missed exams will have to be taken in addition to the final exams in the time allotted for the final exam. If an exam needs to be made up, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor 1-2 weeks before the final exam to ensure that a copy can be printed. If a student is unable to attend the final exam, documentation (e.g., doctor's note) must be provided to verify extenuating circumstances that would necessitate rescheduling. Students arriving late to an exam will be permitted to sit for the exam until the first student has finished, after which point the exam will need to be made up.

### **Attendance and Participation:**

Although there is no formal attendance policy, your attendance and participation is expected. You will not be formally penalized, but repeated absences will likely adversely impact your performance on exams. In addition, participation in class activities and lectures is not only beneficial for the classroom environment, but enhances learning opportunities. Therefore, up to 3% bonus may be awarded to the final grade based on each student's participation throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion. However, you must be present to participate in class. Students will still be responsible for all material covered, even if they are not present for a particular class period. Therefore, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you take time to become acquainted with classmates so that you may have access to notes should you need to miss class. It is each student's responsibility to find access to missed notes on their own. Inquiries to the instructor regarding missed material will likely not receive a favorable reply. Finally, class begins promptly at the listed start time, and punctuality is important. If you must arrive late, please enter the class quietly. If you are disruptive, you will be asked to leave.

**Special Considerations:** A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the **Office of Disability Support Services**, 103A North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during first week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>

**Policy on Academic Misconduct:** The University's regulations relating to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog.

**Excused Absence Policy:** University excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the OU excused absence policy, see <http://www.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>

**Faculty Feedback:** As a student in this class, you may receive “Faculty Feedback” in your OU e-mail if your professor identifies areas of concern that may impede your success in the class. Faculty Feedback typically occurs during weeks 2-5 of the Fall and Winter terms, but may also be given later in the semester and more than once a semester. A “Faculty Feedback” e-mail will specify the area(s) of concern and recommend action(s) you should take. Please remember to check your OU email account regularly as that is where it will appear.

**Audio Recording Policy:** Audio-recordings of lectures may be made only with permission from the instructor and only in extenuating circumstances. Requests must be accompanied with proper documentation (e.g., DSS note) of need for audio recordings. Recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the instructor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices. Students who fail to delete recordings without proper permission to retain will be asked to delete them, after which proper channels (including legal) will be followed to ensure improperly handled audio-recordings are deleted.

**Veteran Support Services:** The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 116 North Foundation Hall, or phoning 248-370-2010.  
<http://www.oakland.edu/veterans/>

**Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns:** The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns at <https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf>

## **Grade Determination**

### ***Exams***

There will be five exams throughout the semester based on previously covered course material. The final exam will consist of two parts worth 100 points each and will be administered during the scheduled final exam date. These exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Grades will be assigned on the basis of the degree to which the answers reflect a complete and accurate response to the question. Each exam is worth 100 points out of the total 500 points in the course.

## **Research participation**

As a PSY1000 student, you are required to complete 10 research credits per psychology department policy.

Credits are allocated in the following way:

1 credit for each ½ hour (30 minutes) of in-person, laboratory research participation + 1 additional credit

½ credit for each ½ hour (30 minutes) of online research participation

1 credit for each alternative assignment

You must earn at least 3 of your credits through in-person, laboratory research participation OR by completing alternative assignments. The remaining 7 credits can be earned through online research participation (or by completing alternative assignments). You will not be allowed to sign up for or complete more than 7 credits through online research participation. Pending credits for online research participation will count toward the 7 credit limit (i.e., if you are signed up for 7 credits in online studies, you will not be allowed to sign up for more).

Please note that your credit is assigned by the researchers, not by the instructor. Inquiries about participation should be addressed either to individual researchers or to the Subject Pool Coordinator. To that end, credit is not automatically updated – there is a person behind the curtain. Please allow at least 72 hours before launching inquiries about missing credit. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you do not wait until the end of the semester to seek out your research credits.

You must complete all 10 credits by the deadline to receive full marks (see the Psychology Department website for additional information – <https://www.oakland.edu/psychology/research-participation/>). Failure to complete all 10 credits will result in a loss of 1% from your total final grade for each missing credit. For example, a student who earned 69% in the class but failed to complete any research credits would receive a final grade of 59% (69% – 10% = 59%). In addition, 1 bonus point will be assigned to your final exam for each additional research credit you receive past your 10 required (bonus capped at 10 points).

### Cancellations

Please be considerate of the researchers' time by being aware of your appointments. If you are unable to make an appointment that you signed up for, please cancel your appointment using the SONA system AS SOON AS YOU ARE ABLE. If you do not cancel prior to the beginning of the appointment time, you will be given an 'Unexcused - No Show' for your appointment. If you are given three 'Unexcused - No Shows' you will only be able to earn your credits through the completion of the alternative assignments.

A complete list of studies (with credits offered) is available on the SONA website (<https://oakland.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/>). Make sure that you indicate that you want your research credits applied to this course. Credits that are not specifically assigned to course will not be included in your grade at the end of the semester. It is your responsibility to earn research credits and verify that they are appropriately applied to this course.

**Grade Calculation:** Your final grade will be calculated as the number of points you achieved across the semester. There will be 3 exams each worth 100 points, and a two part final exam (each part worth 100 points), for a total available 500 points for the course. The number of points achieved out of 500 will be converted to a percentage. Grades will then be assigned according to the following scale:

### **Grading Scale:**

95% and above = 4.0  
 90% - 94% = 3.6 - 3.9  
 80% - 89% = 3.0 - 3.5  
 70% - 79% = 2.0 – 2.9  
 60% - 69% = 1.0 – 1.9  
 59% and below = 0.0

In addition, up to 3% bonus may be assigned to a student's final grade based on participation in class discussion throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion.

### **Detailed Class Schedule and Topical Outline...tentatively**

All dates and topics are subject to change. The instructor will inform students of any changes both in-class and electronically.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading (Pages likely covering)</b>
4 Jan	Introduction to course/syllabus	None
9 Jan	Introduction and History of Psychology	ch. 1 (p. 2-14)
11 Jan	Scientific Methodology I	ch. 1 (17-33)
16 Jan	Scientific Methodology II	ch. 1 (34-42)
18 Jan	Neurons and Neural Communication	ch. 2 (50-63)
23 Jan	The Nervous System and the Brain	ch. 2 (63-88)
25 Jan	Exam I/Sensation & Perception I	
30 Jan	Sensation & Perception II	ch. 3 (96-137)
1 Feb	Consciousness	ch. 4 (143-184)

6 Feb	Learning I	ch. 5 (189-200)
8 Feb	Learning II	ch. 5 (201-226)
13 Feb	Memory	ch. 6 (233-274)
15 Feb	Exam II	
20-22 Feb	Winter Recess	
27 Feb	Cognition, Language, & Intelligence I	ch. 7 (279-301)
1 Mar	Cognition, Language, & Intelligence II	ch. 7 (302-321)
6 Mar	Human Development	ch. 8 (327-369)
8 Mar	Motivation & Emotion	ch. 9 (377-412)
13 Mar	Personality/Individual Differences I	ch. 11 (455-475)
15 Mar	Personality/Individual Differences II	ch. 15 (476-491)
20 Mar	Exam III/Social Psychology	ch. 15
22 Mar	Social Psychology	ch. 15 (619-659)
27 Mar	Sex, Gender, & Sexuality	ch. 11 (417-450)
29 Mar	Stress & Health	ch. 12 (497-530)
3 Apr	Psychological Disorders	ch. 13 (535-571)
5 Apr	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	ch. 14 (577-613)
10 Apr	Flex day/uncovered material	
12 Apr	Exam III	
17 Apr	Review Day	
24 Apr	Final Exam 8-11 AM	

Students are responsible for knowing all important dates throughout the semester, including the date and time of the final exam. Always check the registrar's calendar for official dates:

<https://oakland.edu/registrar/important-dates/>