

Introduction to Psychology: Basic Processes – Psyc 1100
Mondays 1:00-3:50 (Langley Campus, East 2590)

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Droogendyk

Email Policy

Please use the phrase “Psyc 1100” in your email subject line (I teach several courses and being able to identify which course you are in is essential). Please **DO NOT** send me messages via SharePoint. Also, I cannot respond to very lengthy emails. Email correspondence should be kept to short questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no”. For longer questions, please speak to me during the student hour, during the break, or after class. If you have been absent, please do not email to ask me what you missed—consult your classmates.

Course Description

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. This course will give you insights into the thoughts, motivations, emotions, perceptions, personalities, and actions of people. There are many myths and misunderstandings about the mind and human behaviour. We will use critical thinking skills to expose those myths and replace them with more accurate understandings. A few of the fascinating topics we will cover include: various psychological perspectives; methods of conducting research, brain and behaviour relationships, the interplay of genes and experiences, how our brain constructs a rich representation of the external world, learning and memory, how hypnosis and psychoactive drugs influence consciousness, and more. In addition, you will apply these ideas to your own experiences.

Textbook (Required)

Aronson, E., Wilson, T.D., Akert, R.M., & Fehr, B. Social Psychology (5th Ed.). Toronto, ON: Pearson.

Student Hour with Dr. Droogendyk (Location: L2105)

My student hour (Mondays 4:00-5:00) is a dedicated time I have set aside each week for spending time with students outside of class. I would like to...

- **Get to know you!** Please stop by, say hello, and introduce yourself.
- **Answer your questions!** Attended class but didn't understand an example, or missed a definition? Befuddled by the textbook or readings? Want feedback on your paper topic? Need writing help? Please stop by!

Course Requirements

Test 1	= 15%
Test 2	= 20%
Test 3:	= 20%
Assignment 1	=15%
Assignment 2	= 17%
Class Participation	= 10%
Lab Participation	= 3%

*Bonus points are available for participating in psychology research. More details within.

Description of Learning Outcomes, Course Requirements, Assignments, & Due Dates

At the end of this course, you will have the ability to...

- Explain and critically evaluate current topics and research in the field of psychology
- Describe basic psychological processes
- Describe and apply rudimentary research and statistical methods
- Access and comprehend current research
- Utilize effective writing skills in assignments and examinations
- Use critical thinking skills through discussion and analysis of psychological issues

The course requirements (described below) are designed to help you achieve these outcomes.

Tests (55%)

There will be three tests in the course (Oct 18, Nov 16, and a third test during the final exam period). The first test is worth 15% of your final grade the second two tests are each worth 20% of your final grade. The tests will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam will cover material covered in Dr. Droogendyk's lectures, guest lectures (if applicable), in-class discussions and activities, and assigned readings (whether material appeared in only one or in all of these sources).

Assignments (32%)

You will be required to complete 2 writing assignments. More details will be given in class 2-3 weeks before each assignment due date. You will be required to provide a complete draft of your paper for in-class peer review **ONE WEEK before** the deadlines listed below. Providing this complete draft and participating in the peer review process will count toward your paper grade.

- Assignment 1 (11%) – due ONLINE October 4 by 11:59 pm
- Assignment 2 (12%) – due on ONLINE November 29 by 11:59 pm

Note: Late assignments are **NOT accepted**.

Participation (10%)

I value your attendance and engagement in this class. As such, you will receive marks for attending class and participating in activities. These marks will be earned in two ways:

- 1) Completing Lesson Comprehension Checks (LCCs) – an opportunity will be provided at the end of most classes.
- 2) Completing in-class activities – frequent opportunities to participate in activities will be offered in class. You can hand in your written response to the activity for course credit (usually by the end of class, although some activities may have a take-home or online component). Note: occasionally, we may have more than one activity on the same day - for logistical reasons, only *one activity point* will be awarded per class.

Your **participation grade** will be determined as a *percentage of the total number of activities and lesson comprehension checks that you complete*. For example:

- Hypothetically, imagine that we have 10 activities and 12 Lesson Comprehension checks (total 22 points). Sarah completes 9 of the activities and 10 of the Lesson Compression Checks (total 19 points). $19/22 = 86\%$. 86% of 10 points = 8.6 points towards Sarah's final grade.

Please note that I reserve the right to modify your final participation grade based on other aspects of your in-class participation (e.g., marks may be deducted for inappropriate use of electronics in class).

Research Participation (Bonus marks, up to 2%)

One of the best methods of learning about and understanding psychological and methodological principles is to participate in actual research. You will be given the opportunity to earn bonus marks for your participation in research being conducted by professors and students at Kwantlen. You can earn 0.5% for each 1/2 hour of your participation in a research study, up to a maximum of 2% bonus marks for this course. Alternative options are available for students who would like to obtain bonus credit but who prefer not to participate in research.

Learn about the Research Pool here: http://kpu.ca/arts/psychology/research_pool.html

Sign up for research projects here: <http://kwantlen.sona-systems.com>

Other Course Information

Lecture slides

Lecture slides will be posted on Canvas before the lecture, usually a few hours in advance. These slides do NOT contain all the information and/or activities that we will cover in class. They also do not provide enough information to be considered “lecture notes,” and thus should not be viewed as a substitute for attending class. They are meant to provide summary points, which you need to supplement with more expansive notes of your own.

Inclusiveness and accommodations

I will strive to make course material accessible to all students, and to provide students with different abilities the opportunity to perform at their highest potential. If you have a disability that might require accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible. Services for Students with Disabilities (<http://www.kpu.ca/ssd>) exists to ensure that fair and reasonable accommodations are made for students who need them.

Late papers, missed exams, and requests for “special circumstances”

Papers that are not submitted online by 11:59 pm on the due date will not be considered for marking (there may be a grace period of a few minutes, but don't push it!). Late papers will not be accepted, and make-up exams will not be arranged unless there is a valid excuse (e.g., medical issue) and documentation is provided.

If you must miss an exam or paper deadline for **medical reasons**, please:

- contact Dr. Droogendyk as soon as possible to let her know that you will be making a request for accommodation (this should be done **prior to the test date or paper deadline** whenever possible).
- Obtain a **doctor's note** as soon as possible

If you believe that you have a **legitimate non-medical reason** why you must miss an exam or a paper deadline, please:

- Contact Dr. Droogendyk as soon as possible to let her know that you will be making a request for accommodation (this should be done **prior to the test date or paper deadline** whenever possible).
- Recognize that you will need to provide supporting documentation.
- Absences due to athletics, family obligations, vacations, work scheduling, or other similar commitments WILL NOT receive special accommodation. It is also not possible to provide accommodation because of too much other work or too many other deadlines.

Grade appeals

If you believe there has been an error in the marking on particular assignment or exam, you can appeal your grade by notifying the professor *in writing* within two weeks from the release of the marks for that assignment. Your assignment will be re-graded using the same assignment criteria, with the possibility that your grade will **increase or decrease**.

Academic Honesty

My expectation is that we are all here to learn and enjoy the process of acquiring knowledge and skills. Academic dishonesty undermines this basic purpose. You should be aware that all acts of intellectual dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the Kwantlen Plagiarism and Cheating Policy (<http://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/c08.pdf>). As this is a first year course, some introduction to avoiding unintentional plagiarism will also be provided in class.

Grade Distribution

Grade	%	Grade Pts.	Definition
A+	90-100	4.33	Exceptional
A	85-89	4.00	Outstanding
A-	80-84	3.67	Excellent
B+	76-79	3.33	Very Good
B	72-75	3.00	Good
B-	68-71	2.67	Good
C+	64-67	2.33	Satisfactory
C	60-63	2.00	Satisfactory
C-	56-59	1.67	Marginal
D	50-55	1.00	Minimal
F	<50	0.00	Unsatisfactory

Topic Schedule and Readings¹

Week 1	
September 14 Lesson: Introduction and History of Psychology	
Reading: Chapter 1	
Week 2	
September 21 Lesson: Research Methods	
Reading: Chapter 2	
Week 3	**Assignment 1 Peer Review**
September 28 Lesson: Biology of the Brain I	
Reading: Chapter 3	
Week 4	**Assignment 1 Due 11:59pm October 4**
October 5 Lesson: Biology of the Brain II (--Brain Lab--)	
Reading: Review Chapter 3	
Week 5 – No Classes (Thanksgiving Holiday)	
Week 6	**Test 1 in class: 1-1:45pm**
October 18 Lesson: Sensation and Perception I	
Reading: Chapter 6	
Week 7	
October 26 Lesson: Sensation and Perception II (--Sensation and Perception Lab--)	
Reading: Review Chapter 6	
Week 8	
Nov 2 Lesson: Consciousness and Thinking	
Reading: Chapter 3	
Week 9	
November 9 Lesson: Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity	
Reading: Chapter 4	
Week 10	**Test 2 in class: 1-1:45pm**
November 16 Lesson: Learning	
Chapter 7	
Week 11	**Assignment 2 Peer Review**
November 23 Lesson: Memory	
Reading: Chapter 8	
Week 12	**Assignment 2 Due 11:59pm Nov 29**
November 30 Lesson: Learning & Memory (--Learning and Memory Lab--)	
Reading: Review Chapters 7-8	
Week 13	
Intelligence; Review & Conclusions	
Reading: Chapter 10	

****Test 3 will take place during the final exam period – Dec 14, 11:30-12:30****

¹ Subject to change. I will notify you of any changes in class.