



PSYC 200-L01

Principles of Psychology

Fall 2013

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. M. Boyes	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	ICT 102
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-7724	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	M/W/F 3-3:50 PM
<b>Email:</b>	boyes@ucalgary.ca	<b>[Lab and/or TA info in remaining cells (delete if N/A)]</b>	
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 230		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

### Course description

This course provides a general introduction to the study of basic psychological processes. At the end of the course, you will be able to evaluate psychological information related to basic processes according to the scientific method and will have introductory-level knowledge of:

- Areas of psychology as a biological science
- the diverse sub-fields of psychology focusing on basic processes
- current theories for understanding different areas of psychology focusing on basic processes
- methodologies and terminology used in different areas of psychology focusing on basic processes

Lectures are intended to highlight and extend, rather than summarize, assigned text readings. You will benefit most from lectures if you read the assigned material *prior* to the corresponding lecture. Class outlines will be available on the Department of Psychology website:

<http://www.psych.ucalgary.ca/students/courses/> and on the course Blackboard site.

These outlines are provided to assist you in organizing and understanding the material and are not a substitute for class attendance.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.



**Required Text:** Comer, Ronald; Gould, Elizabeth; Ogden, Nancy and Boyes, Mike (2012)

**Psychology Around Us: Canadian Edition** Wiley Canada, Toronto. Available at the University of Calgary bookstore

There are online resources available for this textbook.

<http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=0470678895&bcsId=6893>

### **Blackboard for PSYC 200 (60)**

There is an area on the general campus Blackboard site set aside for this course. Blackboard can be accessed via this link; <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login> **THIS SITE SHOULD BE YOUR FIRST STOP FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSE TOPICS DATES ETC.**

### **Evaluation**

**Three term tests and a final exam are scheduled.** All are non-cumulative, multiple-choice tests based on **both** textbook and lecture material (including films and other demonstrations). Not all test material will be covered in class, and some test material covered in class will not be covered in the text, so regular attendance is important for success in this course. Note that you are responsible for **all** assigned readings from the text even if the specific content has not been covered in lectures. Many test questions will involve critical thinking, a skill you will be given practice developing in class, so again it's to your advantage to come to class. The use of class notes or the text book, computers or calculators is prohibited during the tests in this course.

Your **course grade** will be computed as **the average of your four quiz scores (converted to a score out of 96) PLUS your Experiential Learning score (4%) (see section below)**. If you miss a quiz, a make-up quiz may be arranged but you may be required to supply me with Physician/Counsellor Statement(s) indicating the basis for missed test as soon as possible after the missed test.

#### **“Test-Taking Advice: Especially for the Multiple-Choice Challenged”:**

[http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/sites/psych.ucalgary.ca/files/Test\\_Taking\\_Advice.pdf](http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/sites/psych.ucalgary.ca/files/Test_Taking_Advice.pdf)

#### **Experiential-Learning/Article-Evaluation Course Component (4% of final grade)**

This experiential-learning/article-evaluation component provides enriched learning opportunities in this introductory course. You can complete this component by participating in research studies (**Option 1: Research Participation**), by completing 1-page article evaluations from a designated list (**Option 2: Article Evaluations**), or by a combination of the two options. Thus, you will learn more about psychology by taking part in research studies and/or by reading and evaluating articles from a psychological perspective.

**Option 1: Research Participation.** Students can complete this course component by creating an account and participating in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. Each study will be followed by an educational debriefing experience. The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. **The last day to participate in research and allocate credits is December 6th, 2013.**

**Option 2: Article Evaluations.** Students can complete this course component by reading and evaluating articles. Students earn 1% (1 credit) for each acceptable evaluation. Students can submit only one evaluation per due date (**September 20, October 11, November 1, November 22, 2013**). Please consult the Blackboard for this course for more information about this option.

**Option 3: Combinations of Options 1 and 2.** Students can complete this course component through any combination of Options 1 and 2 (e.g., 3% through Option 1 and 1% through Option 2, or vice versa). Given that each article evaluation counts for 1%, students who complete, for example, 2.5% through

Option 1 would need to complete two evaluations to successfully complete all 4% of this course component. As mentioned under Option 2, students can only submit one article evaluation per due date. Thus, *students who opt to combine Options 1 and 2 must plan ahead carefully.*

### **Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy**

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

### **Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades**

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

**A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.*** An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

**A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.*** Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

**B Range: *Good Performance.*** Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

**C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.*** Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

**D range: *Marginally meets standards.*** Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

**F grade: *Course standards not met.*** Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

### **Grade scale**

Percentages below indicate the standard required for each letter grade. These cutoffs may be lowered but will not be raised.

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between

two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.50% will be rounded up to 90% but 89.49 will not).

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

**NOTE: While Test Dates are FIXED, topic dates may shift a bit.**

DATE	Topics	Readings
Sep 9-13	Introduction to Psychology	Ch 1
Sep 16-20	The Science of Psychology	Ch 2
<b>Wed Oct 2</b>	<b>Quiz #1</b>	<b>Ch 1, 2</b>
Oct 4-18	Brain and Behaviour	Ch 4
Oct 21-28	Sensation and Perception	Ch 5
<b>Wed Oct 30</b>	<b>Quiz #2</b>	<b>Ch 4, 5</b>
Nov 1-8	Consciousness	Ch 6
Nov 13-18	Learning	Ch 7
<b>Wed Nov 20</b>	<b>Quiz #3</b>	<b>Ch 6, 7</b>
Nov 22-29	Memory	Ch 8
Dec 2-6	Cognitive Psychology/ Language	Ch 9
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>Last day to allocate Research Participation credits on RPS (SONA)</b>	
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>Fall Session lectures end Last day to withdraw with permission from Summer Session half courses</b>	
<b>Dec 9 to 19</b>	<b>Fall Session Final Examinations (And our final quiz)</b>	<b>Ch 8, 9</b>

### Important Dates:

Date	Topic
M Sep 9	Lecture begins.
F Sep 20	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.
M Sep 23	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
F Sep 27	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
M Oct 14	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
Nov 9-12	Reading Days. No lectures.
M Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
F Dec 6	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 9-19	Fall Term Exam Period.

### Absence from a Test

Make-up term tests are only available under special circumstances (see "Evaluation" above). You must write the final exam during the exam period. Should you miss it, a make-up exam is not an option without an official University medical excuse. You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. A completed Physician/Counsellor Statement may be required to confirm absence from a Quiz for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician/Counsellor Statement.

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. If you are seeking academic accommodation, please notify your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course.

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>  
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at (403) 220-5567.

<b>Student Union VP Academic:</b>	Phone: (403) 220-3911	<a href="mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca">suvpaca@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Student Union Faculty Rep.:</b>	Phone: (403) 220-3913	<a href="mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca">socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca</a>

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is Sept 20th, 2013**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Sept 23rd, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course (and NOT receive a fee refund) and is **December 6th, 2013**.